

Opposition Testimony SB215
Veterans and Public Safety Committee
December 14, 2021
Submitted by Jennifer Weinbrecht

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson and Ranking Member Thomas: Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony today. My name is Jennifer Weinbrecht. I live in Geauga County. I am writing as a concerned citizen in opposition to SB215.

This legislation would expand the ability to carry concealed handguns to criminals and people charged with crimes who cannot currently obtain a concealed carry license. There is no reason to change who may obtain a CCW license. We need laws that will encourage responsible gun ownership. Widening the net of who can carry concealed weapons, when gun violence is increasing in our state, is not a way to diminish gun violence and keep our communities safe.

We've had friends who were murdered by a guy with a gun. Also, kids who attended the school my grandkids attend were murdered by a guy with a gun. A guy with a gun hung around outside my workplace years ago looking for his supervisor, who fortunately didn't go out to his car when expected. Someone realized what was going on and luckily, the guy with the gun was apprehended before he could shoot his supervisor. I've worked with people who were really scared after a co-worker was fired, because he threatened them on the way out the door, and they knew he was a guy with a gun. A guy with a gun can do a lot of damage very quickly before he can be stopped.

Concealed carry requires a background check and training because concealed carry has the potential to be far more dangerous to the public. Licensing helps maintain a level of safety by filtering who can own a gun and how they are permitted to carry it. Both the Ohio Constitution and the United States Constitution do not guarantee the right to an unlimited personal armory with no regulation. How is this proliferation of guns everywhere "well-regulated"? Gun rights activists need to stop manipulating the second amendment to further their "guns everywhere" agenda. But, more importantly, lawmakers need to stop caving to them at the expense of the lives of Ohioans.

SB215 would permit Ohioans without any training in the use of guns to carry a concealed handgun and use the element of surprise to assist in their quest to kill others. Legislation regarding concealed carry and who may obtain a license should be about safety. Not about rushing to put guns in the hands of more citizens and criminals.

In Ohio, we need laws that will keep people safe. Changing the restrictions on who can obtain a CCW and then allowing anyone to carry is not the way. I ask you to please oppose SB215.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you.